Vacation Rest.

May 21. '33

Masonic Eastern Stars.

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Mk.6:31 Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while.

INTRO. Fellow Masons and Eastern Stars, we more than welcome your presence with us this a.m. You who believe in God, teach His Word, and and recognize His love and goodness should nfeel perfectly at homw with us in our worship together. We ivite you also to go with us to Camp North this afternoon for a social time together in the great out-of-doors and to close a glorious day with an informal vesper service conducted by the young people.

The fact that we are thus planning to spend the day and that the schools are about to close and summer will soon be here, makes us think of vacation time, does it not? Why not make such a consideration our meditation this morning?

You will remember that Jesus once sent his disciples forth on a campaign of their own and after a strenuous time of it them returned. Then it was that John the Baptist was beheaded and that was a great shock to them all. Then it was that Jesus said to his disciples,"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest a while

Every one needs a rest, a change from the routine at least once a year. Such a vacation period is not a luxury, as some think, but a necessity.

Robert Browning in one of his poems tells us the story of two camels. Both were of great value to their master, and both loved him and gave themselves wholly to his service. Both had precious burdens to bear across the desert. One, in his devotion, did all he could to save his master expense. He ate very little and of the cheapest

at that. All went very well for a while, but at length his strength gave out and he fell dead on the desert. His precious burden was stolen by desert thi thieves, thus causing a loss to his master of both camel and burden. The other camel ate the best of food and plenty of it. The result was that he passed safely over the desert to his intended destination.

Wrapped up in this story there is a lesson for every one of us. We have our duties to perform and our God and Master to serve. God expects of us our b best at all times. In order to be able to give our best we must maintain ourselves at our best. To weaken ourselves by mistaken economy, by lack of rest, by worry or by any other unnatural way of living is against both God's interest in us and desire for us. Our physical, mental and spiritual energies must be kept at their peak if we are to serve God as we should. Sometimes, therefore, the best way to accomplish our task is to take a vacation.

We all need to have our faith strengthened, our vision clarified, our courage bolstered, our attitudes revised to a normal, whosesome, optimistic outlook upon life. Nothing can accomplish this like a good vacation well spent.

Take our little outing for this afternoon.

I. It will be a time of fellowship together. Come ye apart, said Jesus, all of you together, and we will go into a desert place. Perhaps he had noticed that the disciples upon their return from fheir separate evangelistic tours were not as friendly to one another as they had been. They were losing the sweet touch of comradship. They were drifting each going his own way. They needed to be brot together again.

And is'nt that just what we do today? Each goes his own way, minds his own business, until we are not as neighborly and friendly to one another as we should be.

Business men often neglect their wives and kiddies

3. In the same way friends of years standing often grow to be strangers to each other.
Read June's letter.

II. Again, Jesus invited his disciples to a fellowship with nature. "Come ye apart to a desert place". Not a desert like Sahara or the desert Arizona or of our own state. But a place apart from human habitation where God in all the beauty of nature could be sensed. No doubt Jesus had in mind some beauty spot where hills and streams and flowers and tree and sunshine blended together to give one a great inspiration. In such places there is rest and healing for the tired out and sick soul of men. Nature is the great elixer of life. She is also a wonderful teacher.

Many do not believe in God today. Nor in immortality. The stars and the mountains and the ocean and the frees and flowers and birds can bring us back to our true senses again.

Many things are changed since Jesus and his disciples walked the earth, but there is one thing that has not changed, and that is the beauty and the peace of nature. The stars still shine in the heavens. Beautiful white clouds still go drifting by in the glory of a sunshiny afternoon. And if these had a ministry for wearied men who moved in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, they still have a ministry for us. Do not despise it or call it sentimental.

III. Again, let our little outing be a fellowship with God and Christ.x Christ did'nt say, Go ye apart, but Come ye apart. He goes with us, this afternoon even as he went with his disciples.

Mrs.Williams regrets. I told her that she would be with us just the same. As one of the prime movers of this outing, her spirit and example would be felt by us all. Likewise we shall feel and realize the presence of God with us.

IV. And lastly, our little outing and our vacations should fit us for further service. Jesus did'nt say "Come ye apart and rest forever." He said, "Come ye apart and rest for a while." Their holiday, as you know, did'nt last long for the multitudes followed and had to be ministered to. Nor do our vacations an outings last for long. They are altogether too short, sometimes. We must return to our takks and duties. O,,r afternoon together should make us the better fitted for the tasks of this coming week. We should be able to gather here next Sunday and worship God with a greater ferver and degree of honesty and sincerity because of our get-to-gether in the open spaces. Memories will awake in winter days of quiet places where the sun was shining Friends will meet us in the thick of work, and they will be different because they were with us as such a time. Love will be kinder in the home. God grant to us all a time of rest// that will make us better and sweeter and stronger when September comes. God grant to all of us new power for service drawn from the riches of a happy holid ay.